

**REMARKS**

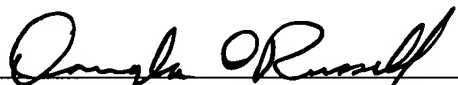
The Applicant thanks the Office for the careful consideration given the application in the communication. Claims 1, 18, 31 and 34 have been amended to further clarify and distinguish Applicant's claimed invention over the cited references, based on several telephone conferences with the Examiner. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as filed. Applicant hereby requests examination and reconsideration of the application, in view of the foregoing amendments.

**SUMMARY**

Applicant has made a diligent effort to distinguish the present invention over the referenced art and to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Douglas D. Russell, Applicant's Attorney at 512-338-4601 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

February 23, 2001  
Date

  
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